Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Cefdinir salts of formula (I)

wherein n ranges from 1 to 3, and the hydrates and solvates thereof.

- 2. (Original) Cefdinir salt as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 2.
- 3. (Previously presented) Cefdinir salts according to claim 1 in the crystalline form.
- 4. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of salts of formula (I)

Appln. No. 10/539,122 Amendment dated August 11, 2006 Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

comprising the treatmenting with phosphoric acid of a compound of formula (III)

wherein

 R_1 is a benzhydryl, trityl or p-methoxybenzyl group, and R_2 is benzhydryl, t-butyl or p-methoxybenzyl group.

5. (Currently amendedl) A process as claimed in claim 4 <u>wherein the treatment is</u> conducted in characterized in that use is made of an organic solvent selected from:

Appln. No. 10/539,122 Amendment dated August 11, 2006 Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

acetonitrile, propionitrile, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, ethyl formate, methyl acetate, N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMA), N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP), acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran (THF), dioxane, dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), sulfolane, formic acid, acetic acid, methylene chloride, methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.

- 6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 5 characterized in that the solvent is acetonitrile.
- 7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 characterized in that use is made of 1 to 20 equivalents of phosphoric acid.
- 8. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir (II)

comprising the treatmenting of salts of formula (I)

Appln. No. 10/539,122 Amendment dated August 11, 2006 Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

with an organic or inorganic base, in which the organic base is triethylainine triethylamine and the inorganic base is selected from ammonia, sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, or potassium hydroxide or sodium or potassium phosphate, followed by treatmenting of the resulting solution with conventional acids.

9. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein the salt of formula (I) is obtained by reacting crude cefdinir with phosphoric acid.